the Environment Appraisal Committee. Now, this is one aspect. And the Minister says something is pending always. He is unnecessarily dragging in the question of inter state disputes. Though I feel there is no inter state dispute involved because the Bachhawat Commission award is very clear, but even if you feel that there is a dispute what have you done to resolve the dispute? Is the Minister just seeing the fun because the two non Congress Governments are fighting ? What have you done to resolve the dispute. Every state has reiterated its position. Is it not your duty to resolve it and give your judgement ? Why are you sitting tight on this point for three years?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I don't know whether the non Congress (I) Governments are fighting, I don't know. Hon. Member knows it.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : That is your comment. You said about the inter State dispute.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : For clearing any project, first of all, the project should be technically sound. It should answer the questions about economic viability and above all there should be water availability for any project to be cleared. So far, the Andhra Pradesh Government has not fully convinced whether there is water... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: That is wrong. Sir, he himself had gone to Hyderabad to satisfy himself. His own team has gone there and satisfied itself... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discussion. I am going to allow half an hour discussion. Please sit down. Next question.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : The Minister is not capable of solving this issue... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : You are simply aggravating it.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I think the Prime Minister will have to think of changing the portfolio (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Our Prime Minister does not act on the advice of Mr. Upendra.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : He will and you will go (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already said that in view of the importance of this question I am going to allow half an hour discussion. Why quarrel further ? Next question.

*6 [*The questioner (Shri Syed Ahmad Hashmi) was absent. For answer* vide *Col.* infra]

* 7[*The questioners (Shri Indradeep Sinha and Shri Suraj Prasad) were absent. For answer* vide *Cols.* 38-39 infra.]

Use of Land Acquired for Salem Steel Plant

*8. SHRI S.W. DHABE†
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that huge tract of land was acquired for the Salem Steel Plant out of which the present plant occupies a small area;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the unused cultivable land is neither being given to farmers nor being used by the plant authorities;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand the present plant by putting one more Schizir rolling mill or integrated steel plant in the Seventh Five Year Plan ; and

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri S. W. Dhabe.

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons for not expanding the plant or making use of the land ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The Salem Steel Plant acquired 1603.68 hectares of private and Government land out of which 1037.64 hectares of land (65%) is in use.

(b) It is not intended to release for cultivation any of the land acquired for the project.

(c) and (d) The Project envisages installation of a second Sendzimir mill and associated facilities at a cost of Rs. 56 crores in order to increase production of cold rolled stainless steel coils and sheets from 32,000 to 65,000 tonnes per year and to process 5,000 tonnes of Hot Rolled annealed and pickled finished stainless steel from purchased Hot Rolled Coils. However, in view of the tight resources position and *inter se* priorities within the plan allocation, no provision has so far been made for setting up the second Sendizimir mill in the Seventh Plan.

There is no proposal under Government's consideration for setting up an integrated steel plant at SALEM.

In view of the above, the land acquired for the SSP Project has not been utilised fully at present.

SHRI S.W. DHABE : Sir, this project was envisaged—Salem Steel Plant and integrated special steel plant with a total capacity of two lakh twenty thousand tonnes including 70,000 tonnes of cold rolled stainless steel, 75,000 tonnes of electrical steel, and 75,000 tonnes of special and mild steel but the project is not completed. On the other hand, it has been reduced, as the minister has replied, to 65,000 tonnes of cold rolled stainless steel and to process 5,000 tonnes of hot rolled and in reply to parts (c) and (d), the Minister said that there is no provision for setting up the second Sendzimir mild in the Seventh Plan. May I know the reason for it and when the project has been approved. Why there is no provision in the Seventh Plan.

SHRI K. C. PANT : It is for lack of resources.

SHRI S. W. DHABE : This is the difficulty in our planning. We plan big things and when it comes to resorces, there is no provision for it. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the planning is made without finding resources for such an important steel plant in Madras. Secondly, I would like to know, if there are no resources, why they have acquired so much land ? Out of the land of 1600 hectares acquired, they have made use of only 1037 hectares and 500 odd hectares are lying idle. This has not been returned to the cultivators. Nor are they using it for expansion purposes. May, I, therefore, know from the hon. Minister, if there are no resources, why should they not return the land to the cultivators so that they can cultivate it and use it for agricultural purposes ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : First of all, resources are fully calculated while the plan is drawn up, and the projects are envisaged in the longer term also. I still hope that the second Sendzimir Mill will come up. When it will be done is a question of resource availability. Therefore, at this stage, to give up a part of the land and later on to reacquire it does not seem to be a feasible proposition, unless one altogether closes the door on further expansion which, I do not think, my hon. friend wants.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very much disappointed at the Minister's answer. You know very well with what lofty

ideals, the Salem Steel Plant was conceived as an integrated steel plant. But today, the fact is that the South is being totally neglected particularly, Tamil Nadu and the Salem Steel Plant has become a mere steel rolling mill and that too with very little production. Even economically speaking, there is a very sound case for the second Sendzimir Mill. The demand for stainless steel which was only 18,000 tonnes in 1971 has gone up to about 66,000 tonnes in 1981. The projection of the Planning Commission itself is that by1990, there will be a demand of 200,000 tonnes of stainless steel. As you know already, there is a lot of blackmarketing going on in stainless steel in this country. With all this, if the present production capacity of 32,000 tonnes can be increased by having the second Sendzimir Mill, the production will go up to 70,000 tonnes and this will bring down the overhead costs and make the plant more profitable. You know very well, Sir, that the country is suffering by way of losses in the —SAIL and other things. Therefore, I would very much like the hon. Minister to give a categorical assurance in his answer that he will take it up with the Planning Commission and convince the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and others. This is all the more important because the Prime Minister has again and again expressed concern about the performance and profitability of public sector enterprises. Therefore, there is a very sound case for this, whereby, if you allocate more funds to this ,you can definitely make it more profitable and you can also have more steel production in this country. Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister to give this cagtegorical assurance to this House while answering this question.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, as far as the steel sector is concerned, at the moment. there is the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant which is being set up on green field site; the expansion of Bokaro and Bhilai have been taken in hand; Durgapur and Rourkela have to be modernised. Therefore, already, the steeel sector, particularly, the public sector, has been allocated funds for doing a number of things. It is not as if the steel sector is not doing anything. The question whether money can be found for a particular project or not is a matter..

SHRI S.W. DHABE : That is why, the Salem Steel Plant has not been expanded. You are modernising some other mill.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Which mill do you suggest should not be modernised ?

SHRI S.W. DHABE : I am not saying that.

SHRI K.C. PANT : This is the problem with the Planning Commission. Priorities have to be set up. If Rs. 55 crores can be found at a later stage by the Planning Commission or internal, resources can be generated by the SAIL, we can consider the other possibilities also. But not at the moment. Now, I would like to mention one or two things. My friend talked of neglect of the South. Actually, I was in the Steel Ministry when this decision was taken earlier. From the note on supplementaries, I find that the announcement was made in 1970. I have a suspicion that I was in the Ministry at that time. Three steel plants were, at that time suggested for the South. There is no question of neglecting the South. I will not allow this statement to go unanswered. The second question is about the decision on the second Sendzimir Mill. I think there is justification for the second Sendzimir mill and the problem of resources being a real one I cannot give an assurance. But I do not dismiss the second Sendzimir mill as an idea which is not worth pursuing.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second plant, it

appears, will not come up at least in another 5 years. There has to be some policy by the Government so that all land could be utilised. In the meanwhile, till the plant comes into existance, will the Government think of giving this land on lease to those farmers from whom they have acquired it or alternatively, give it to the agricultural department so that the land could be utilised and some food crops could be grown ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, originally in 1964 the Tamil Nadu Government notified some nine to ten thousand hectares of land for the Salem Steel Plant, but acquisition proceedings were confined to only 1600 odd hectares, and ultimately the rest of the land has been denotified in stages. It is not as though the plant has kept for itself more land than it would require after the stage-2 is implemented. Keeping that possibility in mind, this land has been kept back.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जमीन कब एक्वायर की गई और दूसरा किसानों को किस दर से मुआवजा दिया गया और जो जमीन इस्तेमाल नहीं हो रही है उसके बारे में क्या किसानों को लौटाने आदि का कोई विचार है ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : यह जमीन सन् 1972 से 1976 के बीच में ली गई है और इसका मुआवजा जो दिया गया वह वट लैंड, इरीगेटैड ड्राई लैंड, ड्राई लैंड अलग-अलग है, उसमें 1 हजार 3 सौ 16 से लेकर 2 हजार 7 सौ 40 रुपये प्रति एकड़ के हिसाब से मुआवजा दिया गया । इसमें से कुछ कोर्ट में चले गए तो उनकी जमीन की दर 5 हजार रुपये तक वैट लैंड के लिए बढ़ गई । जो दूसरा सवाल माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा है, मैंने पहले भी कहा कि चूंकि यह भी संभावना है कि बाद में इस कारखाने का स्टेज दो भी बन जाए तो इसलिए इसमें जमीन वापस देने की कोई योजना नहीं है ।

[DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI] : The hon. Minister was good enough to say that the South has not been neglected. I would like to know from him one thing. There is 75 per cent iron contant in the ore at Hospect but the Vijayanagar steel plant, the foundations for which were laid in 1970 by the then Prime Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not relevant.

[DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI] : ..has been neglected.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not relevant. I am sorry. Next question.

Government Agencies engaged in Housing Activity

*9. SHRI M.M. JACOB : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the agencies of the Central Government engaged in providing houses to people ;

(b) what is the number of families provided with housing loans and houses through the various schemes under the Central Government during the year 1984-85;

(c) what is the amount allotted for housing loans and house construction in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(d) whether Government envisage a plan to provide houses for all the people ; and

(e) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) Housing is a State subject and all Social Housing Schemes are implemented by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations as per their local needs and plan priorities. However, at